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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-third session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Note verbale dated 6 May 1991 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

No. 55

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania presents its compliments to Mr. Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, and has the honour to transmit to him herewith the resolution of the People's Assembly on the question of Kosova dated 28 April 1991 and to request him to arrange for it to be circulated as a document of the forty-third session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and of the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania takes this opportunity to renew to Mr. Jan Martenson the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 6 May 1991

GE.91-12198/0568H

RESOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ON THE QUESTION OF KOSOVA

1. The Albanian authochthonous people living in their own territories, but incorporated within the Yugoslav Federal State, wherein they come third in population number, are confronted with a new threat of unpredictable consequences.

2. Serbian chauvinism is not confined only to serious and systematic violation of the fundamental rights of Albanians, to their imprisonment, deportation and murder, but it is also in a hurry to eliminate their autonomy. In recent days, this chauvinism resolved to go even further: it decided to divide Kosova into regions, so that its medieval myth could finally come true, thus pushing to the extreme the ugliest crime against mankind, that of genocide against about 3 million Albanians in their ancestral territories.

3. Through this artifice and the ways and means the Serbian leaders use, they are trying to legitimize the invasion of Kosova, thus posing a threat to peace and stability not only in Yugoslavia, but also in the Balkans and Europe.

4. It is common knowledge, however, that the Albanian people of Kosova have clearly expressed their sovereign will through the decision of the Assembly of Kosova on 2 July 1990. Through this act they demand no more than the other Slav peoples in Yugoslavia. Therefore, the claim that the Albanians, by being recognized as a people, want to secede immediately is a pretext to nip in the bud every constructive initiative that could eventually be launched from the other Yugoslav republics, and to paralyse the other Slav peoples by nourishing in them the malignant pan-Slavic idea of disbelief toward the non-Slav peoples.

5. The Albanian people are being excluded from the talks on the Yugoslav crisis. This constitutes a violation of the universal principle of self-determination, which is sanctioned by the Federal Constitution itself. But it is not the fault of this people if they were divided in half through the dictate of the old diplomacy.

6. We therefore demand that:

(a) An end be put to the invasion and to the systematic violence exercised by the Serbian State against the Albanian martyr people;

(b) The Albanians living in their own territories within the Yugoslav Federal State be recognized as a people and nation and be ensured participation in the talks on the new agreement on the basis of equality with the other peoples in Yugoslavia;

(c) The regionalization of Kosova not be allowed;

(d) All the rights of our Albanian brothers residing in their own territories in Yugoslavia, which are recognized by the Yugoslav Constitution and the Helsinki acts, including that of self-determination, be recognized and fully observed;

(e) The Albanian Government be authorized to take the necessary action with the States and international organizations to guarantee these rights.

7. These questions being of great concern, we deem it necessary to forward an appeal to European and world opinion for greater understanding, and fuller and more concrete commitment so that the conflagration the Serbian chauvinists want to create can be prevented, for it could have unpredictable consequences. This is not only a message to our brothers, but also a fundamental obligation of half of our nation towards its other half.

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